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agenda*

PROPOSED BASIC PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COUNCIL FOR 1996 AND 1997

Note by the Secretary-General

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* E/1996/2.

** To be issued separately.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Economic and Social Council, in accordance with rule 8 of its rules of procedure, shall draw up at its organizational session, with the assistance of the Secretary-General, its basic programme of work.

2. At its second regular session of 1988, the Council, in resolution 1988/77 on the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council, which was endorsed by the General Assembly in its decision 43/432, adopted a series of measures aimed at revitalizing the Council. With regard to its working methods and organization of work, the Council, inter alia, decided that, in formulating its biennial programme of work, the Council should, to the extent possible, consolidate similar or closely related issues under a single agenda item, in order to consider and take action on them in an integrated manner. The Council also decided that, prior to the organizational session, the President, with the cooperation of the other members of the Bureau, should arrange for consultations with members of the Council on the draft programme of work and provisional agenda prepared by the Secretary-General and on the allocation of agenda items and make proposals thereon for consideration by the Council.

3. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/264 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields. Section III of the annex to that resolution contains a number of measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the Economic and Social Council. At its forty-eighth session, the Assembly adopted further measures in regard to the high-level segment, the coordination segment, the operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment and the general segment of the Council's substantive session (General Assembly resolution 48/162). Those segments are discussed below individually under the appropriate heading. In the same resolution, the Assembly decided that the Committees of the Council would be subsumed into the plenary as of 1994.

4. Annex II to General Assembly resolution 48/162 gives guidelines for the division of labour between the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to be instituted as of 1994 and, in paragraph 7, sets out a listing of items for the agenda for the substantive session of the Council. That list has been followed in the preparation of the present proposed programme.

5. In its decision 1995/319, the Council approved the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1996 and 1997 in the economic, social and related fields (E/1995/L.20 and Add.1 and 2), and as revised by Council decision 1995/318, according to which the Council is to hold its substantive session at United Nations Headquarters from 24 June to 26 July 1996.

6. The Secretary-General submits herewith for consideration by the Council a proposed basic programme of work for 1996 and 1997 and proposed provisional agenda for 1996.

7. Section I contains the proposed provisional agenda for the substantive session of the Council in 1996. Section II contains the annotations to the

agenda items, the documents to be submitted under each item and the legislative authority for their preparation. Section III, which will be issued as an addendum to the present document, lists the questions which, in accordance with decisions adopted by the Council and the General Assembly, should be included in the Council's programme of work for 1997.

8. With regard to the report of the Trade and Development Board, the Council may wish to transmit directly to the Assembly the report of the Board on the second part of its forty-second session (Geneva, 23 September-4 October 1996).

9. It will be noted that an item on the United Nations University has not been included in the proposed programme of work. The report of the Council of the United Nations University is considered by the General Assembly on a biennial basis in even years and in depth by the Council in odd years. Since the report of the Council of the United Nations University on its work during 1995 will be considered by the Assembly in 1996, the Council may wish to decide to transmit it directly to the Assembly.

10. With regard to the selection of a subject relating to interregional cooperation, of interest to all regions, for detailed consideration under the agenda item on regional cooperation pursuant to Council decision 1982/174, the Council will be informed of the joint recommendations of the executive secretaries of the regional commissions in this regard.

I. PROPOSED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF 1996 OF THE COUNCIL

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

High-level segment

2. [Theme/themes to be selected.]

Coordination segment

3. Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following themes:

   (a) Coordination of the United Nations system activities for poverty eradication;

   (b) [Theme to be selected];

   (c) Implementation of the agreed conclusions on the theme of the 1995 coordination segment of the Council.

Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment

4. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation:

(a) Follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly;

(b) Coordination of activities on a system-wide basis: strengthening collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions in the areas of social and economic development at all levels, including the field level;

(c) Consideration of the reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme.

General segment

5. Social, humanitarian and human rights questions: reports of subsidiary bodies, conferences and related questions:

(a) Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance;

(b) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination;

(c) Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations;

(d) Human rights questions;

(e) Advancement of women;

(f) Social development questions;

(g) Crime prevention and criminal justice;

(h) Narcotic drugs;

(i) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

6. Economic and environmental questions: reports of subsidiary bodies, conferences and related questions:

(a) Sustainable development;

(b) Trade and development;

(c) Food and agricultural development;

(d) Natural resources;

(e) Energy;

(f) Cultural development;

(g) Population questions;

(h) International cooperation in tax matters;

(i) International decade for Natural Disaster Reduction;

(j) Public administration and development.

7. Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields.

8. Permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories.

9. Coordination questions:

(a) Reports of the coordination bodies;

(b) International cooperation in the field of informatics.

10. Non-governmental organizations.

11. Programme and related questions in the economic, social and related fields.

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Reports brought to the attention of the Council

Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COUNCIL

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

11. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/264 and Council decision 1995/319, the Council will hold its substantive session of 1996 in New York from 24 June to 26 July.

A. High-level segment

Item 2. [Theme/themes to be selected.]

12. In the annex to its resolution 45/264, entitled "Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields", the General Assembly set out guidelines for the high-level segment of the Council. It is to be of four days' duration, open to all Member States in accordance with Article 69 of the Charter, with ministerial participation, devoted to the consideration of one or more major economic and/or social policy themes, which are to be determined at the organizational session. Adequate Secretariat preparation is to include, in particular, one comprehensive background document for each theme; debate is to follow an integrated and interdisciplinary approach; and heads of the relevant organizations, agencies and other organs are to participate actively. Heads of multilateral financial and trade institutions of the United Nations system will participate in a one-day policy dialogue and discussion on important developments in the world economy and international economic cooperation, with a view to building areas of understanding. The main features of the deliberations of the high-level segment are to be presented to the Council by its President in the form of a summary, which would be incorporated in its final report.

13. The Council will wish to select a theme or themes for the high-level segment at its organizational session for 1996.

14. It will be recalled that the Council, in its resolution 1995/1, strongly recommended that, at its organizational session for 1996, the issue of international cooperation against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotics and psychotropic substances and related activities should be considered a theme for the high-level segment of the Council's substantive session of 1996. In its resolution 1995/40, the Council reiterated that recommendation.

15. At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly invited the Council, while considering the issue of international cooperation against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotics and psychotropic substances at its high-level segment of 1996, to pay special attention to the recommendations on the follow-up to Assembly resolution 48/12, contained in the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/1995/29, chap. VII). The Assembly also invited Member States to inform the Council at its high-level segment of 1996 on progress in international cooperation, especially on specific national efforts to engage the United Nations system and the multilateral development banks in addressing the drug problem (Assembly resolution 50/148).

16. The Council will have before it the World Economic and Social Survey, 1996, prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 118 (II) and Council resolution 1983/50. Part one of the Survey will contain the Secretary-General's assessment of the world economic situation as of mid-1996, including recent developments and the short-term outlook in developed, transition and developing economies and the situation regarding international trade and financial flows. Part two will analyse various aspects of policy concerning capital formation around the world. Part three will address a number of salient social and economic trends and developments. The Survey will also contain a statistical annex of data on the current world economic, trade, financial and energy situations.

Documentation

World Economic and Social Survey, 1996

B. Coordination segment

Item 3. Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following themes:

17. In the annex to its resolution 45/264, the General Assembly decided that a segment on coordination of the activities of the specialized agencies, organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the economic, social and related fields should be held during the substantive session of the Council and organized as follows:

(a) A segment of four to five days devoted to the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies, organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system relating to the achievement of the economic and social objectives of the United Nations. Discussion would be organized around one or more themes selected at the organizational session, and designed to focus attention on the activities of the United Nations system in the selected economic and social areas;

(b) Discussion would take into account the report of the Secretary-General as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, together with appropriate recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination. That report should contain a system-wide assessment of the status of coordination with regard to the themes and include recommendations, as appropriate;

(c) The heads of concerned specialized agencies, organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including multilateral financial and trade institutions, would be invited to participate actively, making contributions to the policy dialogue reflecting a global perspective on the agreed theme or themes, as well as their activities in the chosen themes;

(d) Recommendations that resulted from those discussions should be submitted to the General Assembly and forwarded, as appropriate, to the governing bodies of the specialized agencies, organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system as well as to the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination. In that context, the Secretary-General should arrange to apprise the next session of the Council of steps taken by the United Nations system to give effect to those recommendations (Assembly resolution 45/264, annex, sect. III, para. 5 (d) (ii)).

18. The attention of the Council is drawn to General Assembly resolution 48/162 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United

Nations in the economic, social and related fields, in particular annex I, paragraph 14, concerning the coordination segment.

(a) Coordination of the United Nations system activities for poverty eradication

19. At its resumed substantive session of 1995 (decision 1995/321), the Council decided that the coordination segment of its substantive session 1996 should be devoted to consideration of the following theme: Coordination of the activities of the United Nations system for the eradication of poverty, and that consideration of the theme should focus on three areas: (a) coordination of United Nations support for and availability of resources to the United Nations system for facilitating national poverty eradication plans and programmes as well as the provision of basic social services, particularly at the field level; (b) coordination of United Nations efforts to ensure that all its activities for poverty eradication take fully into account the gender perspective; and (c) ways of monitoring the performance of the United Nations in the field of poverty eradication, in the context of the harmonization of the multi-year programmes of work of the functional commissions of the Council, in accordance with the thirteenth paragraph of agreed conclusions 1995/1 (see A/50/3, chap. III, para. 22).

20. The report of the Commission for Social Development on its special session and the reports of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (see item 5 (f) below) will be made available to the Council for consideration during the coordination segment.

(b) [Theme to be selected]

21. In the sixth paragraph of its Agreed Conclusions 1995/1 on coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system and implementation of the results of the major international conferences organized by the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields (see A/50/3, chap. III, sect. A), the Council stated the following:

> "Each year, within the framework of its coordination segment, the Council shall carry out a review of cross-cutting themes common to major international conferences and/or contribute to an overall review of the implementation of the programme of action of a United Nations conference. The theme related to the follow-up of a conference, to be considered at the coordination segment, shall be chosen at the Council's previous substantive session to allow for adequate preparations by the functional commissions, other relevant intergovernmental bodies and the Secretariat. The Secretary-General is invited ... to offer suggestions for possible common themes for consideration and decision by the Council."

22. In a note by the Secretary-General (E/1995/129), submitted to the Council at its resumed substantive session of 1995, the Secretary-General had suggested that "gender equality, equity and empowerment of women" could be selected as the common theme for the 1996 coordination segment of the Council. That theme figures prominently in almost all conferences and is also relevant to the work of almost all organizations of the United Nations system.

23. In its decision 1995/321, the Council selected the theme "Coordination of United Nations system activities for poverty eradication" (see paras. 19-20 above). The Secretary-General therefore suggests that the theme "gender equality, equity and empowerment of women" could be selected by the Council as the second theme of its coordination segment for 1996.

(c) Implementation of the agreed conclusions on the theme of the 1995 coordination segment of the Council

24. At its substantive session of 1995, the Council considered the following theme under the coordination segment: "Coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system and implementation of the results of the major international conferences organized by the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields". In accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/264, the coordination segment of the Council should also be devoted to the consideration of the implementation of the agreed conclusions on the theme of the 1995 coordination segment of the Council.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the agreed conclusions on coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system and implementation of the results of the major international conferences organized by the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields

C. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment

25. In the annex to its resolution 45/264, the General Assembly decided that a segment of two to three days of the Council's session should be devoted to operational activities of the United Nations system, focusing, in particular, on the follow-up of policy recommendations and decisions of the Assembly and coordination of activities on a system-wide basis, taking into account Council resolution 1988/77.

26. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly, in annex I to its resolution 48/162, decided that the work of the operational activities segment would include a high-level meeting, open to all Member States in accordance with Article 69 of the Charter, including ministerial participation. Specific arrangements would be decided upon by the Council at its organizational session. The outcome of this segment should be reflected, inter alia, in the adoption of decisions and resolutions.

27. At its substantive session of 1994, the Council decided that each operational activities segment would determine a principal theme or themes primarily for consideration at the high-level meeting, which would be guided by paragraph 16 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 48/162, and that those themes should be agreed on by the Council at its substantive session for consideration at the subsequent substantive session, without excluding consideration of other themes to be decided on by the Council, at the latest, at its organizational session. The Council decided further to devote up to one day

of the segment to an informal exchange of views, on issues to be agreed on at the organizational session, with a limited number of representatives/country directors at the field level of the United Nations development funds and programmes, as well as the specialized agencies (Council resolution 1994/33).

Item 4. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation:

(a) Follow-up of policy recommendations of the General Assembly

28. At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly invited the Council, during the operational activities segment of its substantive sessions of 1996 and 1997, to examine the operational activities of the United Nations system with a view to ensuring the full implementation of Assembly resolution 50/120. The Assembly also stressed, inter alia, the important role of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system in transferring and facilitating the necessary technical and substantive expertise to support the national execution of United Nations-funded programmes and projects, and invited the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the heads of specialized agencies, to inform the Council of the measures taken by those specialized agencies in response to Assembly resolution 47/199, in particular as regards national execution. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General, after consultations with the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, to present to the Council at its substantive session of 1996 an appropriate management process containing clear guidelines, targets, benchmarks and time-frames for the full implementation of Assembly resolution 50/120. The Assembly also invited the Council, at its substantive session of 1996, to consider, inter alia, the issues of harmonization and administrative services, common premises and monitoring and evaluation, and, at its substantive session of 1997, to consider, inter alia, capacity-building, field- and regional-level coordination, and resources, on the basis of progress reports by the Secretary-General, including appropriate recommendations. The Assembly decided that, as an integral part of the next comprehensive triennial policy review, to be undertaken in 1998, there should be, in consultation with Member States, an evaluation of the impact of operational activities for development, and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its substantive sessions of 1996 and 1997 information on progress in that regard (resolution 50/120).

(b) Coordination of activities on a system-wide basis: strengthening collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions in the areas of social and economic development at all levels, including the field level

29. In its resolution 1995/50, the Council, having recalled that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/162, the role of the Council in its operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment included the provision to the United Nations system of cross-sectoral coordination and overall guidance on a system-wide basis, reaffirmed that the strengthening of the efficiency and effectiveness of the operational activities of the United Nations system in the delivery of its assistance for development required a real commitment to implementing Assembly resolutions 47/199 and 48/162, including the need to increase substantially the

availability of resources on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, commensurate with the needs of developing countries, and decided that in 1996 the high-level meeting of the operational activities segment should focus on strengthening collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions in the areas of social and economic development, at all levels, including the field level.

30. The Council also decided that the themes for the working-level meetings of the operational activities segment should include:

(a) Field-level coordination issues relating to the follow-up of the theme of the high-level segment of the previous substantive session of the Council;

(b) Issues relating to the budgets of the United Nations funds and programmes, with the aim of:

(i) Promoting greater budgetary transparency with respect to resources, including administrative costs of different funds and programmes;

(ii) Addressing the linkages between administrative expenditure and programme expenditure;

(iii) Ensuring the most efficient use of resources;

(iv) Promoting budgetary transparency with respect to resources mobilized by developing countries for operational activities for development of the United Nations, including resources from the private sector;

(c) Issues relating to:

(i) Strengthening national capacity for management and coordination of international assistance;

(ii) Improving national participation in the process of evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of assistance provided by United Nations funds and programmes;

(iii) Promoting greater collaboration among United Nations funds and programmes in the evaluation of their activities;

(d) Issues relating to procurement, in particular from developing countries;

(e) Issues relating to the use of national experts and local technologies;

(f) Issues relating to the priorities to be given in particular to the least developed countries and Africa.

The Council further decided to review those themes at the organizational session for 1996, in the light of the discussion on the triennial policy review at the fiftieth session of the Assembly (see para. 28 above).

(c) Consideration of the reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme

31. In accordance with annex I to General Assembly resolution 48/162, paragraphs 21 to 30, in regard to the governing bodies of the United Nations development funds and programmes, the governing bodies of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund have been transformed into Executive Boards. Those Boards are responsible for providing intergovernmental support to and supervision of the activities of each fund or programme in accordance with the overall policy guidance of the Assembly and the Council, in accordance with the respective responsibility as set out in the Charter, and for ensuring that they are responsive to the needs and priorities of recipient countries. The Boards are subject to the authority of the Council and submit annual reports to it at its substantive session, which may include recommendations, where appropriate, for the improvement of field-level coordination. Each Executive Board meets in an annual session.

32. In annex I to its resolution 48/162, paragraph 30, the General Assembly decided that the arrangements regarding the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund should apply to the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes of the World Food Programme, and consultations between the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations should be undertaken as soon as possible for that purpose.

33. By its resolution 50/8, the General Assembly decided, subject to the concurrence of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, that the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes should be reconstituted as the Executive Board of the World Food Programme. In the same resolution, the Assembly decided that the Executive Board of the World Food Programme would comprise 36 members elected from among the States Members of the United Nations or the States members of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and that the Economic and Social Council and the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations should elect 18 members each, as set forth in paragraph 2 of the resolution.

34. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly decided, in order to ensure an effective and efficient interaction between the Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the individual Executive Boards, that each Board would submit an annual report on its programmes and activities to the Council at its substantive session (resolution 48/162, annex I, para. 29). At its substantive session of 1994, the Council requested the United Nations development funds and programmes, through their executive boards, to include in their annual reports to the Council, which should have a common structure: (a) a section outlining measures taken in the implementation of the provisions of the triennial policy review of operational activities; and (b) a section on the activities and measures undertaken within the designated theme for the high-level meeting of the operational activities segment (resolution 1994/33).

35. In its resolution 1995/51, the Council requested the heads of the United Nations funds and programmes to report to the Council at its substantive session of 1996, through their Executive Boards, on the steps taken to further refine and effectively apply procedures for: (a) the overall impact and performance of United Nations funds and programmes and measures to ensure that higher priority was given to monitoring and evaluation activities and to the implementation of findings, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/199; (b) strengthening national capacity for the management and coordination of international assistance; (c) improving national participation in the process of evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of assistance provided by the United Nations funds and programmes; and (d) promoting greater collaboration among United Nations funds and programmes in the evaluation of their activities. In the same resolution, the Council requested the Executive Boards, in their reports to the Council, to identify specific problems, opportunities and areas in which the Council could provide cross-sectoral coordination and overall guidance on a system-wide basis, and to make appropriate proposals, which should be further analysed as a basis for recommendations to the Council, to ensure that the policies formulated by the Assembly, particularly during the triennial policy review of operational activities, were appropriately implemented on a system-wide basis. The Council also requested the United Nations funds and programmes, and invited specialized agencies, to explore the scope for improving the cost-effectiveness of administrative services, including the possible use of common administrative services at the field level, with the aim of strengthening programme delivery, and to report thereon to the Council at its substantive session of 1996.

Documentation

Reports of the Secretary-General on the operational activities for development undertaken by the United Nations system

Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund

Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund

Report of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme

Annual report of the United Nations Development Programme

Annual report of the United Nations Population Fund

Annual report of the United Nations Children's Fund

D. General segment

Item 5. Social, humanitarian and human rights questions: reports of subsidiary bodies, conferences and related questions:

(a) Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance

36. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly requested the emergency relief coordinator to prepare an annual report for the Secretary-General on the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations, including information on the central emergency revolving fund, to be submitted to the Assembly through the Council (resolution 46/182, annex, para. 35 (i)). At its substantive session of 1995, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit, at a date to be determined by the Council at its substantive session of 1996, a comprehensive and analytical report, including options, proposals and recommendations for a review and strengthening of all aspects of the capacity of the United Nations system for humanitarian assistance. In order to facilitate that process, the Council decided, inter alia, to request the Secretary-General and relevant agencies, organizations, programmes and funds of the United Nations system to include in their reports to the Council at its substantive session of 1996 a section on the progress achieved in the review of these issues and on the full implementation of Assembly resolution 46/182 (resolution 1995/56). At its fiftieth session, the Assembly decided to refer further deliberations on these matters, including those related to the Central Emergency Revolving Fund, to the Council at its substantive session of 1996 (resolution 50/57).

37. Assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda. The Secretary-General apprises the Council annually of the status of this question (Council resolution 1983/46).

38. The Council will also hear oral reports on the following questions:

(a) Provision of assistance for the repair of war damage in the Republic of Yemen. At its substantive session of 1995, the Council appealed to all Member States, all United Nations organizations and programmes and all other international organizations and institutions to provide the requisite support and assistance to the Government of the Republic of Yemen to repair the war damage suffered by the economic infrastructure, and requested the Secretary-General to inform the Council at its substantive session of 1996 of the progress achieved in the implementation of the resolution on this subject (resolution 1995/41).

(b) Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon. At its substantive session of 1995, the Council appealed to all Member States and all organizations of the United Nations system to intensify their efforts to mobilize all possible assistance for the Government of Lebanon in its reconstruction and development efforts, and requested the Secretary-General to inform the Council at its substantive session of 1996 of the progress achieved in the implementation of the resolution on this subject (resolution 1995/42).

(c) Assistance for the reconstruction of Madagascar following the natural disasters of 1994. At its substantive session of 1995, the Council requested

international and regional organizations, the specialized agencies, financial institutions and voluntary institutions to support, within the framework of their respective programmes, the requests for assistance formulated by the Government of Madagascar during the recovery and reconstruction phase; it also requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to help the Government of Madagascar to mobilize the resources needed to overcome the effects of the natural disasters and to inform the Council at its substantive session of 1996 of the progress made in the implementation of the resolution on this subject (resolution 1995/43).

(d) Assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia. At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in view of the critical situation in Somalia, to take all measures necessary for the implementation of the resolution on the subject, to apprise the Council at its substantive session of 1996 of the progress made and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-first session (resolution 50/58 G).

(e) Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa. At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive and consolidated report on the situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa to the Assembly at its fifty-first session, and an oral report to the Council at its substantive session of 1996 (resolution 50/149).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

(b) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

39. The Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (1993-2003), as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/91, paragraph 16. In that resolution, the Assembly proclaimed the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, beginning in 1993, and adopted the Programme of Action for the Decade contained in the annex to the resolution. The Assembly entrusted the Council and the Commission on Human Rights, in cooperation with the Secretary-General, with the responsibility for coordinating the programmes and evaluating the activities undertaken in connection with the Decade and requested the Secretary-General to submit each year to the Council a detailed report on all activities of United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies, analysing the information received on such activities to combat racism and racial discrimination.

40. The attention of the Council is drawn to General Assembly resolution 50/136.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

(c) Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

41. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. At its substantive session of 1995, the Council requested its President to continue to maintain close contact with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, concerning the matters set forth in Council resolution 1995/58, and to report thereon to the Council; it requested the Secretary-General to follow the implementation of the resolution and to report thereon to the Council at its substantive session of 1996 (resolution 1995/58). At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly requested the Council to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the Assembly (resolution 50/34).

42. Assistance to the Palestinian people. At its sixty-third session, in 1977, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to it annual reports on the question of assistance to the Palestinian people (resolution 2100 (LXIII)).

43. At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Assembly at its fifty-first session, through the Council, on the implementation of resolution 50/58 H on the subject.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Report of the President of the Council on consultations held with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people

(d) Human rights questions

44. The Council will consider the general comments adopted by the Human Rights Committee and the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as well as the report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

45. The Council will also consider the report of the Commission on Human Rights on its fifty-second session (Geneva, 18 March-26 April 1996) and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

46. The Council will also consider the question of the implementation of the provisions of the Declaration on the Right to Development.

47. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex) entered into force on 23 March 1976. In accordance with article 45 of the Covenant, the Human Rights Committee reports annually on its activities to the General Assembly through the Council. In 1996, the Human Rights Committee is to hold its fifty-sixth session at Headquarters from 18 March to 4 April, its fifty-seventh session at Geneva from 8 to 26 July, and its fifty-eighth session at Geneva from 21 October to 8 November.

48. It will be recalled that, at its organizational session for 1983, the Council invited the Human Rights Committee to consider the possibility of rescheduling its meetings so that its report could be submitted to the General Assembly through the Council (decision 1983/101). At its organizational session for 1985, the Council agreed to the interim arrangement proposed by the Human Rights Committee, namely, that the Committee would transmit to the Council, on a regular basis, the text of the general comments adopted by the Committee in accordance with article 40, paragraph 4, of the Covenant; and, without prejudice to further consideration of the present arrangements at a future session, the Council decided to authorize the Secretary-General to transmit the annual report of the Human Rights Committee directly to the Assembly (decision 1985/105).

49. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was entrusted by the Council, as from 1987, with overseeing the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Council resolution 1985/17). It will be recalled that the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex) entered into force on 3 January 1976. Under article 16 of the Covenant, States parties to the Covenant undertake to submit to the Secretary-General reports on the measures that they have adopted and on the progress made in achieving the observance of the rights recognized in the Covenant. The Secretary-General is required to transmit copies of the reports to the Council for its consideration.

50. The Council will have before it the reports of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its thirteenth and fourteenth sessions (Geneva, 20 November-8 December 1995; and 30 April-17 May 1996).

51. Committee on the Rights of the Child. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Assembly resolution 44/25, annex). In accordance with article 43 of the Convention, the Committee on the Rights of the Child was established, for the purpose of examining the progress made by States parties in achieving the realization of the obligations undertaken in the Convention. In accordance with article 44 of the Convention, the Committee submits reports on its activities to the Assembly, through the Council, every two years.

52. Commission on Human Rights. The report of the Commission is expected to include its response to the following resolutions:

(a) Council resolution 1995/32, in which the Council authorized the establishment of an open-ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission on Human Rights, with the sole purpose of elaborating a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples, for consideration and adoption by the General Assembly within the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. The Council requested the Commission at its fifty-second session to review the progress of the Working Group and to transmit its comments to the Council at its substantive session of 1996;

(b) General Assembly resolution 50/88, in which the Assembly decided to continue the examination of the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the situation of minority groups such as the Baha'is, during its fifty-first session, in the light of additional elements provided by the Commission and the Council;

(c) General Assembly resolution 50/189, in which the Assembly decided to keep under consideration at its fifty-first session the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, in the light of additional elements provided by the Commission and the Council;

(d) General Assembly resolution 50/191, in which the Assembly decided to continue its consideration of the situation of human rights in Iraq during its fifty-first session, in the light of additional elements provided by the Commission and the Council;

(e) General Assembly resolution 50/196, in which the Assembly decided to continue its consideration of the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Haiti at its fifty-first session, on the basis of information provided by the Commission and the Council.

53. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly decided to create the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; it also decided, inter alia, that the High Commissioner would be the United Nations official with principal responsibility for United Nations human rights activities under the direction and authority of the Secretary-General. The Assembly requested the High Commissioner to report annually on his/her activities, in accordance with his/her mandate, to the Commission on Human Rights and, through the Council, to the Assembly (resolution 48/141).

54. Right to development. At its substantive session of 1995, the Council approved the request of the Commission on Human Rights to the Council to continue to consider the question of the implementation of the provisions of the Declaration on the Right to Development (decision 1995/258). At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly called upon the Commission to continue to make proposals to the Assembly, through the Council, on the future course of action on the question (resolution 50/184).

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the general comments of the Human Rights Committee

Reports of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its thirteenth and fourteenth sessions

Report of the Commission on Human Rights on its fifty-second session

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Documents for information

Reports submitted by States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and by the specialized agencies

Reports submitted by the specialized agencies in accordance with Council resolution 1988 (LX)

Summary records of the thirteenth and fourteenth sessions of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

(e) Advancement of women

55. The Council will consider the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its fifteenth session (New York, 15 January-2 February 1996), the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on the work of its fortieth session (New York, 11-22 March 1996) and the report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its sixteenth session. The provisional agenda and documentation for the fortieth session of the Commission were approved by the Council in its decision 1995/252.

56. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex). The Convention entered into force on 3 September 1981. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was established under article 17 of the Convention for the purpose of considering the progress made in the implementation of the Convention. Under article 21 of the Convention, the Committee shall report annually on its activities to the General Assembly through the Council and may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports and information received from the States parties to the Convention.

57. Report of the Commission on the Status of Women. In accordance with Council resolution 1990/15, the following three priority themes are to be considered by the Commission at its fortieth session: under equality, elimination of stereotyping of women in the mass media; under development, child and dependant care, including sharing of work and family responsibilities; and under peace, education for peace.

58. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly decided that the Assembly, the Council and the Commission on the Status of Women should constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that would play the primary role in the overall policy-making and follow-up, and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Platform for Action; it decided that the Commission, as a functional commission assisting the Council, should have a central role in the monitoring, within the United Nations system, of the implementation of the Platform for Action and in advising the Council thereon, and that the Council should oversee system-wide coordination in the implementation of the Platform for Action and ensure overall coordination of the follow-up to and implementation of the results of all United Nations international conferences in the economic, social and related fields and report thereon to the Assembly; and it requested the Commission to develop its multi-year programme of work for the period 1996-2000 at its fortieth session so that it could review the critical areas of concern in the Platform for Action and to consider how it could integrate into its programme of work the follow-up to the Conference and how it could develop its catalytic role in mainstreaming a gender perspective in United Nations activities, taking into account the need for a focused and thematic approach to the review of the Platform for Action and the contribution that could be made by all other functional commissions of the Council, and to forward its recommendations on the multi-year programme of work to the Council so that the Council could take a decision on the programme of work at its meeting in 1996, reviewing, coordinating and harmonizing the different programmes of work, including the reporting systems of all the commissions in the area of the advancement of women. The Assembly also invited the Council to review and strengthen the mandate of the Commission, taking into account the Platform for Action as well as the need for synergy with all other related commissions and conference follow-up, and for a system-wide approach to its implementation. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report, through the Commission and the Council, to the Assembly at its fifty-first session on ways to enhance the capacity of the Organization and of the United Nations system to support the ongoing follow-up to the Conference in the most integrated and effective way, including human and financial requirements. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to report annually to the Commission and the Assembly, through the Council, on the measures taken and the progress achieved in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (resolution 50/203).

59. In accordance with its resolution 1993/16, the Council will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the revised system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001. In that resolution, the Council requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to arrange for a revision of the system-wide medium-term plan after the Platform for Action and the results of the second review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women had been adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, and decided that the Commission on the Status of Women, together with the Committee for Programme and Coordination, should be given the responsibility for monitoring progress on the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women.

60. Report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women. At its sixtieth session, in 1976, the Council decided to establish the Institute as an autonomous body under the auspices of the United Nations, funded through voluntary contributions; it also decided on guidelines for the Institute (resolution 1998 (LX)). The statute of the Board was approved by the Council and endorsed by the General Assembly (Council decision 1984/124 and Assembly resolution 39/249). The Institute functions under the authority of a Board of Trustees, which reports annually to the Council.

Documentation

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its fifteenth session

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fortieth session

Report of the Secretary-General on ways and means to enhance the capacity of the Organization and of the United Nations system to support the ongoing follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace

Report of the Secretary-General on the progress achieved in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

Report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its sixteenth session

Report of the Secretary-General on the revised system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001

(f) Social development questions

61. The Council will have before it the report of the Commission for Social Development on its special session. At its substantive session of 1995, the Council decided that the Commission for Social Development should hold a special session in 1996, in order, inter alia, to review its mandate, terms of reference and scope of work; to elaborate its multi-year programme of work; and to review the frequency of its meetings in the light of the above and make recommendations thereon to the Council. The Council also decided, in the light of those recommendations, to consider in 1996 the composition of the membership of the Commission and the frequency of its sessions (resolution 1995/60).

62. At its resumed substantive session of 1995, the Council decided that the Commission, at its special session in 1996, should consider the following theme: Strategies and actions for the eradication of poverty: (a) formulation of integrated strategies; (b) meeting the basic human needs of all; and (c) promotion of self-reliance and community-based initiatives. The Council also decided that the special session should be held from 21 to 30 May 1996 (decision 1995/324).

63. Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development. In its resolution 50/161 of 22 December 1995, the Assembly decided that it, through its role in policy formulation, the Council, through its role in overall guidance and coordination, and a revitalized Commission for Social Development should constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental process in the follow-up to the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the Summit, and reaffirmed that the Council would provide overall guidance and oversee United Nations system-wide coordination in the implementation of the outcome of the Summit and make recommendations in that regard. The Assembly also invited the Council to review the reporting system in the area of social development with a view to establishing a coherent system that could result in clear policy recommendations for Governments and international actors. The Assembly also endorsed Council resolution 1995/60 and requested the Commission to consider at its next session the composition of its membership and the frequency of its sessions, and to make recommendations thereon to the Council. Finally, the Assembly requested the Commission to establish a practice of involving the relevant actors of civil society in the field of social development to contribute to its work, and requested the Secretary-General to present proposals to the Commission and the Council.

64. First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006). At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly proclaimed the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) and invited the Administrative Committee on Coordination to ensure, in particular through the inter-agency task forces, the involvement and coordination of all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system for a full and effective implementation of the resolution on the subject and to submit to the Assembly, at its fifty-first session, through the Council, reports on activities envisaged in support of the Decade, taking into account the outcome of the major United Nations conferences and summits organized since 1990 in the economic, social and related fields (resolution 50/107).

Documentation

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its special session

Reports of the Administrative Committee on Coordination

(g) Crime prevention and criminal justice

65. The Council will consider the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its fifth session (Vienna, 21-31 May 1996) and take action on the recommendations contained therein. The provisional agenda and documentation for the session were approved by the Council in its decision 1995/243.

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its fifth session

(h) Narcotic drugs

66. The Council will consider the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its thirty-ninth session (Vienna, 16-25 April 1996) and take action on the recommendations contained therein. The provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-ninth session of the Commission were approved by the Council in its decision 1995/244.

67. Proposal for an international conference to combat the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities. At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly took note of the proposal to hold a second international conference to combat the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, and requested the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to discuss fully, as a matter of priority, that issue at its thirty-ninth session, and to present its conclusions and suggestions, through the Council to the Assembly at its fifty-first session (resolution 50/148).

68. Implementation of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly requested that the System-Wide Action Plan be reviewed and updated on a biennial basis (resolution 48/112, sect. IV, para. 10).

69. Report of the International Narcotics Control Board. In accordance with article 15, paragraph 1, of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, article 18, paragraph 1, of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and article 23, paragraph 1, of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, the Board will report to the Council, through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on its work for 1995.

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its thirty-ninth session

Report of the Secretary-General on the biennial update of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control

Summary of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1995

(i) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

70. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reports annually to the General Assembly through the Council, in conformity with paragraph 11 of the Statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (Assembly resolution 428 (V), annex).

71. At its fifty-first session, in 1971, the Council decided that the report of the High Commissioner should be transmitted to the General Assembly without debate, unless the Council decided otherwise, at the specific request of one or more of its members or of the High Commissioner, at the time of the adoption of its agenda (resolution 1623 (LI), sect. II).

Documentation

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Item 6. Economic and environmental questions: reports of subsidiary bodies, conferences and related questions

72. Convention on Biological Diversity. At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly welcomed the results of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and invited the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to report, through the Economic and Social Council, to the Assembly at its fifty-first session on the results of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (Jakarta, Indonesia, 6-17 November 1995) (resolution 50/111).

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity

(a) Sustainable development

73. The Council will consider the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its fourth session (New York, 18 April-3 May 1996) and take action on the recommendations contained therein. The provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Commission was approved by the Council in decision 1995/235.

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its fourth session

(b) Trade and development

74. At its substantive session of 1995, the Council took note of the report of the Trade and Development Board on the second part of its forty-first session (20-31 March 1995) and transmitted the report of the Board on the first part of its forty-second session (11-20 September 1995) directly to the General Assembly. The Board will hold the second part of its forty-second session in Geneva from 23 September to 4 October 1996. It is therefore expected that the Council will transmit directly to the Assembly the report of the Board on the second part of its forty-second session.

(c) Food and agricultural development

75. Review and analysis of agrarian reform and rural development. A report on progress in land reform was regularly submitted to the Council on the basis of Council resolution 370 (XIII) of 7 September 1951. The reports were usually prepared jointly by the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Labour Organization and were usually submitted every four years. At its first regular session of 1980, the Council decided to discontinue the submission to it of progress reports on land reform

(decision 1980/100, para. 5). The question of the type of report required for consideration of this matter by the Council was taken up at each of its sessions in 1981. At its second regular session of 1981, the Council took note of the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on land reform and rural development (E/1981/73) and decided to approve the suggestion contained in paragraph 29 thereof concerning the submission to the Council every four years, beginning in 1984, of a report entitled "Review and analysis of agrarian reform and rural development" (decision 1981/185).

Documentation

Report on the review and analysis of agrarian reform and rural development

(d) Natural resources

76. The Council will consider the report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its third session. The provisional agenda and documentation for the third session of the Committee were approved by the Council in its decision 1994/308.

Documentation

Report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its third session

(e) Energy

77. The Council will consider the report of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development on its second session (New York, 12-22 February 1996). The provisional agenda and documentation for the second session of the Committee were approved by the Council in decision 1994/310.

Documentation

Report of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development on its second session

(f) Cultural development

78. In its resolution 41/187, the General Assembly proclaimed the period 1988-1997 the World Decade for Cultural Development and requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to report biennially to the Assembly, through the Council, on the progress of the Decade.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

(g) Population questions

79. At its organizational session for 1995, the Council endorsed the decisions of the General Assembly in paragraphs 24 and 25 of Assembly resolution 49/128 that the Population Commission should be renamed the Commission on Population and Development and that it should meet annually (decision 1995/209).

80. At its resumed substantive session of 1995, the Council decided that the membership of the Commission should be increased from 27 to 47, and that members of the Commission should be elected by the Council from among the States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies before the opening of the twenty-ninth session of the Commission (decision 1995/320).

81. The Council will consider the report of the Commission on its twenty-ninth session (New York, 26 February-1 March 1996). The provisional agenda for the twenty-ninth session of the Commission was approved by the Council in decision 1995/236.

82. Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly requested the specialized agencies and all related organizations of the United Nations system to continue to take appropriate measures to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, taking into account the specific needs of developing countries, and welcomed the intention of the Secretary-General to report through the Commission on Population and Development to the Council at its substantive session of 1996 on the work of the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Implementation of the Programme of Action, for coordination purposes, and to the Assembly at its fifty-first session, for policy implications. The Assembly requested the Council to consider relevant reports and give guidance on matters concerning harmonization, cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system regarding the implementation of the Programme of Action; to consider, as appropriate, the reports submitted by the different bodies and organs on various matters related to the Programme of Action; and to consider the proposed report on the work of the Inter-Agency Task Force. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to report, through the Council, to the Assembly at its fifty-first session on the implementation of the resolution on this subject (resolution 50/124).

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its twenty-ninth session

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Implementation of the Programme of Action

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/124

(h) International cooperation in tax matters

83. The Secretary-General reports to the Council on the progress of the work of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters following each meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts (Council resolution 1980/13). The Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the seventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts (Geneva, 11-15 December 1995).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the progress of the work of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters on its seventh meeting

(i) International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

84. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly proclaimed the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, beginning on 1 January 1990. The Assembly adopted the International Framework of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, in which, inter alia, the Secretary-General was requested to report biennially to the Assembly, through the Council, on the activities of the Decade (resolution 44/236, annex).

85. The attention of the Council is drawn to General Assembly resolution 50/117 A.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Framework of Action for the Decade

(j) Public administration and development

86. At its forty-ninth session, the General Assembly decided to resume in March-April 1996 its fiftieth session in order to examine the question of public administration and development, and requested the Group of Experts on Public Administration and Finance to contribute, through the Council, to the work of the resumed session (resolution 49/136).

87. The twelfth meeting of the Group of Experts was held from 31 July to 11 August 1995 in New York. At its resumed substantive session of 1995, the Council decided to postpone consideration of this question until 1996 (decision 1995/325).

88. At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly, looking forward to the review by the Council of the report of the Twelfth Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Development, recommended that the Council, at its organizational session for 1996, consider the appropriate time-frame and procedure for the continuation of the work with a view to completing the draft international agreement on illicit payments, including consideration of the draft at the substantive session of 1996 of the

Council, and recommended that the Council report to the Assembly at its fifty-first session (resolution 50/106).

Documentation

Report of the Group of Experts on Public Administration and Finance on its twelfth meeting (A/50/525-E/1995/122)

Report of the Secretary-General

Item 7. Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields

89. The Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation and take the necessary action on the decisions and recommendations of the regional commissions contained therein.

90. The Council will also have before it the summaries of the surveys of regional economic and social conditions prepared by the regional commissions, highlighting the main problems and prospects of those regions. At its first regular session of 1979, the Council decided to discontinue the submission to it of the reports of the regional commissions (decision 1979/1). The reports are transmitted directly to all Member States. The Secretary-General, in his annual report on regional cooperation, in addition to reporting on the meetings of the executive secretaries, highlights developments within each region and draws the Council's attention to specific issues requiring its consideration. The report of the Secretary-General will bring to the Council's attention any decisions or recommendations of the Commissions that statutorily require approval by the Council.

91. At its second regular session of 1982, the Council decided to identify, at its annual organizational session, a subject relating to interregional cooperation, of common interest to all regions, for detailed consideration under the agenda item on regional cooperation and to request the executive secretaries of the regional commissions to submit their joint recommendations in this regard to the Council at its annual organizational session (decision 1982/174). A section on interregional cooperation dealing with the topic selected will be included in the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation.

92. At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly adopted a resolution on follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, in which it invited the Council, in order to facilitate the regional implementation, monitoring and evaluation process, to consider reviewing the institutional capacity of the United Nations regional commissions within their mandates, including their women's units or focal points, to deal with gender-related issues in the light of the Platform for Action, as well as the regional platforms and plans of action, and to give consideration, inter alia, and where appropriate, to strengthening the capacity in this respect (resolution 50/203).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation

Summaries of the surveys of economic and social conditions in the five regions, prepared by the regional commissions

Item 8. Permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories

93. At its substantive session of 1995, the Council adopted resolution 1995/49, entitled "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1967, and on the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan". The Council reaffirmed the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and the population of the Syrian Golan to their natural and all other economic resources, and regarded any infringement thereof as being illegal; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session, through the Council, a report on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution. The attention of the Council is drawn to Assembly resolution 50/129 on the subject.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Council resolution 1995/49 and General Assembly resolution 50/129

Item 9. Coordination questions:

(a) Reports of the coordination bodies

94. The report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) on its thirty-sixth session (Headquarters, May-June 1996) will include the Committee's views on its consideration of the report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC).

95. ACC submits an annual overview report to the Council (Council resolution 13 (III)), which will provide the Council with a summary of the work carried out by the ACC machinery in 1995.

96. The Council will have before it the report of the Chairmen of CPC and ACC on the twenty-ninth series of Joint Meetings of the two Committees, held at Headquarters on 16 October 1995.

Documentation

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its thirty-sixth session

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1995

Report of the twenty-ninth series of Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination, held on 16 October 1995 (E/1996/4)

(b) International cooperation in the field of informatics

97. At its substantive session of 1995, the Council stressed once again the urgent need for representatives of States to be closely consulted and actively associated with the respective executive and governing bodies of the United Nations institutions dealing with informatics within the United Nations system, so that the specific needs of States as internal end-users could be given due priority; and requested once again that the initial phases of the action programme to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States be implemented from within existing resources and in full consultation with the representatives of States. The Council also requested the President of the Council to convene, initially for one year, an ad hoc open-ended working group to make appropriate recommendations for the due fulfilment of the provisions of previous resolutions on this question; and requested the Secretary-General to report on the follow-up action taken on the current resolution on the subject, including the findings of the ad hoc open-ended working group, to the Council at its substantive session of 1996 (resolution 1995/61).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

Item 10. Non-governmental organizations

98. The Council will consider the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its resumed 1995 session (Headquarters, 29 January-2 February 1996) and on its 1996 session (Headquarters, 6-17 May 1996). At its substantive session of 1995, the Council decided to authorize the Committee to hold a resumed session for a period of one week in January 1996 in order to complete the work of its 1995 session (decision 1995/307). The Council also decided that, starting in 1996, the Committee should meet annually; and decided to request the Committee to undertake a thorough review of its methods of work with a view to improving and streamlining its procedures (decision 1995/304).

99. Review of arrangements for consultations with non-governmental organizations. At its substantive session of 1995, the Council decided to extend the mandate of the Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Arrangements for Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations for a period of one year, and requested the Working Group to submit its final report to the Council at its substantive session of 1996 (decision 1995/304).

Documentation

Reports of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

Report of the Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Arrangements for Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations

Item 11. Programme and related questions in the economic, social and related fields

Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

100. The Council will have before it the revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 covering activities in the economic, social and related fields. The Council will examine the revisions in the light of the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the matter (resolution 1988/77).

Documentation

Relevant chapters of the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its thirty-sixth session

Reports brought to the attention of the Council

Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

101. In accordance with the procedures set out in the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, as approved by the General Assembly in resolution 31/192, the Joint Inspection Unit reports annually to the Council on activities under the general responsibility of the Council. In accordance with the practice followed by the Council, reports that relate to agenda items will be considered under those items; reports that do not relate to agenda items will be considered separately.

102. At its thirty-eighth session, the General Assembly invited United Nations organs, when considering reports of the Joint Inspection Unit, to bear in mind the recommendation contained in paragraph 12 of the 1983 annual report of the Unit (resolution 38/229). The recommendation read as follows:

"Because of the method of discussion of JIU reports in the past, clear decisions on the recommendations contained in JIU reports have not always been taken. This lack of clarity hinders effective follow-up by JIU. Legislative bodies of participating organizations could consider the possibility of adopting formulations along the following lines:

"(a) Approves recommendations _____, and _____;

"(b) Approves recommendations _____, and _____ in the light of the comments thereon by the Secretary-General (and/or ACC; and/or the debate in the Committee);

"(c) Reserves its position on recommendations _____, and _____ in the light of the debate in the Committee;

"(d) Does not approve recommendations _____, and _____." 1/

103. At its forty-second session, the General Assembly requested all bodies of the United Nations system to examine closely those reports of the Joint Inspection Unit that were within their respective areas of competence and to comment, as appropriate, on the recommendations contained therein (resolution 42/218). The attention of the Council is drawn to Assembly resolution 45/237.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 34 (A/38/34), para. 12.